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CANNOCK  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL  
REPORT

of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR  
1 9 5 7

JULY, 1958



*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
to the  
Canneock Rural District Council.*

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
PENKRIDGE,  
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## ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,  
Cannock Rural District Council,  
Penkridge,  
Stafford. July, 1958

### TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the year 1957. The report has been compiled on the general lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1957 the Live Birth Rate was 18.7 per 1,000 population and the Death Rate 8.6 compared with respective figures of 16.1 and 11.5 for England and Wales. There were 484 live births in the rural district in 1957 (216 male and 268 female) and the total number of deaths was 223, live births thus exceeding total deaths by 261. Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 16 (8 male, 8 female), giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 33.0 per 1,000 live births, compared with a figure of 23.0 for England and Wales. The latter rate was the lowest annual rate ever recorded for England and Wales. Eleven of the sixteen infants who died in the rural district were under four weeks of age.

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever, 44 cases of Whooping Cough and 394 cases of Measles were notified in 1957, compared with respective figures of 9, 70 and 44 in 1956. No cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were notified. 735 children in the rural district were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis in 1957.

Malignant diseases caused the deaths of 30 persons (20 male, 10 female) in 1957, 6 (5 male, 1 female) being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus. In England and Wales a further rise occurred in 1957 in the mortality from this latter disease, from 726 to 759 per million in men and from 111 to 116 in women. Active research into the condition continues. Three deaths from Tuberculosis were recorded in 1957.

The mid-1957 population of the Cannock Rural District was estimated by the Registrar-General as 25,920 compared with 25,380 at mid-1956 and 24,166 at the 1951 Census.

In the body of the report the Chief Public Health Inspector comments on the subject of the difficulty experienced in dealing with the 860 pan closets and the 800 cesspools in the area (this excluding the conservancy sanitary arrangements of the ever-growing caravan population). These methods of sewage-

disposal are essentially most unsatisfactory as permanent arrangements and the provision of main sewerage is the only really satisfactory solution to the problem. Mr. Richardson also reports fully on the collection and disposal of Household Refuse and upon the important subject of Meat Inspection.

A short summary from the Council's Engineer and Surveyor notes that 76 new Council dwellings were completed in 1957 bringing total post-war Council houses to 925. Captain Page refers to the position as regards sewerage and sewage-disposal schemes at Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay, Shareshill, Brewood, Coven and Wheaton Aston.

The Council's Housing Manager notes that, at the end of 1957, 1,412 housing units (1,296 houses, 116 prefabs, hutments) were owned by the Council. This did not include the 18 hutments at Middle Hill Camp and the 33 at Holly Close Hostel. Mr. Bates refers to the progress made in the clearance of these latter hutments. At the end of the year, 965 applicants were on the Council's waiting list.

From April 1st, 1945, to December 31st, 1957, 925 new houses have been provided by the Council and 760 by private enterprise. From 31.7.49 till 31.12.57. 147 applications, in respect of 168 houses, were received by the Council for Improvement Grants under Housing Acts 1949-1954. 139 of these applications (159 houses) were approved by the Council, the average cost per dwelling of improvement work approved being £473 18s. and the average grant payable by Council being £211 (45% of total cost). Of the 139 applications approved, 77 were in respect of owner-occupiers.

12 temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) were demolished in 1957 and, at the end of the year, temporary housing units occupied numbered 51 (Middle Hill Camp and Holly Close Hostel), not including the 116 prefabs and hutments owned by the Council. Under statutory action 6 houses were demolished during the year and 28 were declared unfit for habitation, and not repairable at reasonable cost, under Housing Acts. The Chief Public Health Inspector gives a figure of 75 as the estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation as at December 31st, 1957.

In conclusion, the Public Health Department wishes to thank the Public Health Committee and Council for their interest and help in the work of the Department. Thanks are also expressed to the officers of the other Departments of the Council for their co-operation.

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health



## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1957**

Chairman :

Councillor W. J. GARRATT

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor F. J. McCARTHY

Members :

Councillors : Rev. A. N. Barsley, H. T. Bill, A. G. Devereux,  
J. Fisher, Miss A. Follows, Rev. H. P. Hollingworth, A. Parkes,  
Mrs. L. J. Perks, Mrs. M. Smith, F. Till, Miss M. J. Walker,  
T. A. Walley, R. J. Westwood.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

Medical Officer of Health :

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. RICHARDSON, Certificate S.I.E.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.,  
(Certified Food Inspector)

Additional Public Health Inspector :

O. W. PARNALL, Certificate S.I.E.J.B.

Clerks :

Mrs. J. GOLDSTRAW

Mrs. J. LESTER

## GENERAL STATISTICS, SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	56,608
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	7,374
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£220,834
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£943
Yearly Rate levied in 1957/58	...	...	...	...	...	16/4d.
Mid-1957 Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	25,920

There were no alterations in the boundaries of the Cannock Rural District in 1957.

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### INDUSTRIES

The working population of the district is engaged in Coal-mining, Agriculture, Brick and Tile Making, and Engineering.

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### LABORATORY FACILITIES, AMBULANCE FACILITIES, NURSING IN THE HOME, TREATMENT CENTRES AND HOSPITALS

Facilities for bacteriological examinations are made available to Medical Practitioners in the area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. Facilities include examination of throat swabs, sputum tests, blood tests, etc. The results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory is Dr. Mackay Scollay, whose expert advice is readily available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demands.

Bacteriological examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical examinations of samples of water, sewage effluents, etc., are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory, Stafford, which is directed by Mr. Houlbrooke, the County Analyst.

The duty of providing Ambulance Services is placed upon the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The responsibility for Isolation Hospitals for Infectious Diseases lies with the Regional Hospital Board. School Clinics, Infant-Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics are made available by the Staffordshire County Council in different parts of the district.

The district is well served by General Hospitals (Wolverhampton, Stafford), and by the General Medical Practitioners practising in the Area. District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors do much good work in promoting the health and welfare of the inhabitants.

During the year the Council subscribed to the Central Council for Health Education which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters. Use was made of Health Education leaflets etc., relating to Infectious Diseases, Food Hygiene and so on.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957

In the Cannock Rural District in 1957 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 18.7, compared with a rate of 16.1 for England and Wales.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 0.46, the figure for England and Wales being 0.37. 4.3 per cent of the live births were illegitimate (1 to 22). There were 484 live births in 1957 (21 of those being illegitimate); 216 were male children and 268 female. Still births totalled 12 (6 male, 6 female), one being illegitimate.

In the following table, comparative figures of Live and Still Births are shown for England and Wales:

YEAR	LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		STILL BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1957	18.7	16.1	0.46	0.37
1956	19.6	15.7	0.55	0.35
1955	16.7	15.0	0.40	0.35
1954	17.8	15.2	0.75	0.36
1953	19.3	15.5	0.73	0.35
1952	18.6	15.3	0.53	0.35
1951	17.4	15.5	0.50	0.36
1950	17.4	15.8	0.37	0.37
1949	18.3	16.7	0.37	0.39
1948	18.8	17.9	0.68	0.42
1947	20.2	20.5	0.25	0.50
1946	19.4	19.1	0.35	0.53

Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 Live Births, 1957: Cannock Rural District, 43.

## DEATHS

In 1957 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 8.6 compared with a rate of 11.5 for England and Wales. In the Cannock Rural District in 1957, total deaths numbered 223 (122 males and 101 females). The excess of live births over total deaths was 261. The Natural Increase for 1957 in England and Wales was 208,006.

# DEATHS—CAUSES, 1957

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	2	—	2
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .. ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic conditions	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms: Stomach ..	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasms: Lung Bronchus	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasms: Uterus ..	—	—	—
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	7	19
Diabetes .. .. .	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	11	20	31
Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	18	8	26
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	—	2	2
Other Heart Disease .. .. .	12	23	35
Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	4	5	9
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	4	7
Bronchitis .. .. .	10	3	13
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	2	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	4	—	4
Congenital Malformations .. ..	5	2	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	—	1	1
All other Accidents .. .. .	6	4	10
Suicide .. .. .	5	—	5
Homicide .. .. .	—	—	—
All other Diseases .. .. .	10	16	26
Influenza .. .. .	4	2	6
<b>TOTALS ..</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>223</b>

## AGES AT DEATH AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL, 1957 TOTAL DEATHS. 223

Age Group	under 1	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	70-	80-	90 and over	Totals
Males ..	8	2	—	1	1	3	4	3	27	20	29	21	3	122
% Total	3.6	0.9	—	0.5	0.5	1.3	1.8	1.3	12.1	9.0	13.0	9.4	1.3	54.7
Females	8	1	2	—	—	—	3	3	11	15	28	26	4	101
% Total	3.6	0.5	0.9	—	—	—	1.3	1.3	4.9	6.7	12.6	11.7	1.8	45.3
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>% ..</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Thirty-three (14.9%) of the total deaths occurred under 40 years of age. This included 16 deaths (7.2% of total) under one year. 146 (65.5%) of the total deaths were at ages 60 years and over.



## DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

YEAR	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1957	8.6	11.5
1956	8.9	11.7
1955	11.9	11.7
1954	10.1	11.3
1953	9.1	11.4
1952	9.3	11.3
1951	13.4	12.5
1950	10.1	11.6
1949	10.3	11.7
1948	10.7	10.8
1947	8.7	12.0
1946	10.9	11.5

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 16 (8 male, 8 female), one illegitimate. Of these 16 children, 11 were under the age of four weeks. The Infant Mortality Rate in the Cannock Rural District was 33.0 per 1,000 live births, compared with 23.0 for England and Wales. The figure for England and Wales was the lowest annual rate ever recorded. At the turn of the century in England and Wales the Infant Mortality Rate was about 150 per 1,000 live births.

YEAR	DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1957	33.0	23.0
1956	18.1	23.8
1955	31.0	24.9
1954	26.6	25.4
1953	52.3	26.8
1952	28.6	27.6
1951	35.6	29.6
1950	54.4	29.8
1949	29.2	32.0
1948	36.2	34.0
1947	37.4	41.0
1946	40.2	43.0

In the following list are given the details of the sixteen deaths under one year of age in the rural district:

## DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR, 1957

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
Female	Newly Born	Lack of attention at birth
Female	1 Hour	Asphyxia Neonatorum, Cerebral Haemorrhage
Male	4 Hours	Congenital Atelectasis
Male	5 Hours	Birth Trauma. Sub-dural Haemorrhage
Male	7 Hours	Prematurity. Placental Separation
Female	18 Hours	Prematurity, 30 Weeks Cyesis
Male	1 Day	Asphyxia, Hyaline Membrane, Prematurity
Male	2 Days	Bilateral Congenital Atelectasis
Female	3 Days	Intestinal Obstruction :
Female	5 Days	Prematurity
Female	1 Week	Atelectasis, Prematurity
Female	1 Month	Fibrocystic Disease of Pancreas
Male	3 Months	Influenzal Broncho—Pneumonia
Female	4 Months	Hydrocephalus, Meningo-Myelocele
Male	7 Months	Virus Encephalitis (Probably Influenzal)
Male	11 Months	Congenital Hydrocephalus, Spina Bifida

There were 12 Still Births in the Cannock Rural District in 1957 (6 male, 6 female). This represents a Still Birth Rate of 24.2 per 1,000 live and still births compared with a figure of 22.4 for England and Wales.

Of the sixteen children who died at under one year of age, 11 were under four weeks, representing a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 22.7 per 1,000 live births. In England and Wales, deaths of infants under four weeks numbered 11,904 giving a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 16.5.

In England and Wales in 1957 live births registered during the year numbered 722,952, which was 24,635 more than in 1956. There were 16,641 deaths of children under one year of age in 1957, giving a rate of 23.0 per 1,000 live births, the lowest Annual Infant Mortality Rate ever recorded in England and Wales. In 1938 the rate was 52.8.

Total deaths in England and Wales in 1957 numbered 514,946 representing a rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population, compared with death rates of 11.7 in 1956 and 11.7 in 1955. There were 16,554 Still Births in 1957 in England and Wales. In the five years 1889-1893 in England and Wales the Live Birth Rate was 30.8 per 1,000 population and the Death Rate was 19.7.

## DEATHS—ENGLAND AND WALES

DISEASES	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14,079	12,031	9,335	7,913	7,069	5,837	4,853
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	1,890	1,775	1,250	989	828	655	522
Diphtheria ...	49	33	32	23	9	13	8
Whooping Cough ..	394	456	184	243	139	88	95
Measles ..	221	317	141	243	50	176	30
Malignant Disease of Lung and Bronchus	12,241	13,247	14,218	15,132	16,331	17,272	18,186
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,230	4,510	4,117	4,375	4,589	4,923	5,036

### CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The increase in the incidence of Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus continues to cause anxiety. There can be little doubt that this condition is on the increase and has probably been increasing since 1920. Two conditions seem to be associated with its occurrence, air pollution and excessive cigarette smoking, though other factors at present unknown may also be operative. Active research is proceeding.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1957 there were six deaths, 5 male, 1 female, registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus. Ages at death were Males 53, 59, 64, 69 and 73; female, 61 years. In England and Wales in 1957 deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus showed an increase from 726 to 759 per million population in men and from 111 to 116 in women, over the 1956 figures.

### CANCER—LUNG, BRONCHUS OR PLEURA ENGLAND AND WALES

Death Rates per Million

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES
1900	10	7
1910	13	9
1920	17	10
1930	55	21
1940	187	49
1950	484	88
1951	530	91
1952	568	98
1953	607	98
1954	657	102
1955	693	105
1956	726	111
1957	759	116



In the Cannock Rural District in 1957 there were 30 deaths (20 male, 10 female) from Malignant Diseases (all forms). The following table shews the mortality from Cancer, all forms, England and Wales.

### MORTALITY FROM CANCER—ALL FORMS ENGLAND AND WALES

YEAR	NUMBER OF DEATHS			DEATH RATE per Million Population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1944	35,887	37,610	73,497	2,217	1,741
1950	43,570	41,700	85,270	2,058	1,840
1951	44,632	41,448	86,080	2,121	1,820
1952	45,429	42,213	87,642	2,152	1,848
1953	45,935	41,989	87,924	2,166	1,833
1954	47,313	42,782	90,095	2,223	1,861
1955	48,159	43,178	91,337	2,252	1,873
1956	48,932	43,769	92,701	2,274	1,891
1957	50,045	43,962	94,007	2,312	1,891

Of the total deaths from Cancer in 1957, Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus was responsible for 19,118 (16,430 males, 2,688 females). Cancer accounted for 18.3% of the total deaths, and Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus accounted for 3.7% of the total deaths in England and Wales in 1957.

### POPULATION—ENGLAND AND WALES

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
1801	4,254,735	4,637,801	8,892,536
1851	8,781,225	9,146,384	17,927,609
1901	15,728,613	16,799,230	32,527,843
1951	21,049,000	22,751,000	43,800,000
1955	21,389,000	23,052,000	44,441,000
1956	21,619,000	23,152,000	44,771,000
1957	21,648,000	23,259,000	44,907,000

### POPULATION—ENGLAND AND WALES, AS AT 30th JUNE, 1957, BY SEX AND AGE (Figures in Thousands)

Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
Males .. ..	21,648	1,707	3,546	2,757	3,036	3,124	3,147	2,261	1,396	674
Females .. ..	23,259	1,621	3,387	2,775	3,038	3,227	3,273	2,742	2,009	1,187
Totals .. ..	44,907	3,328	6,933	5,532	6,074	6,351	6,420	5,003	3,405	1,861
% of Totals ..	100 %	7.4	15.4	12.3	13.5	14.2	14.3	11.2	7.6	4.1

The proportion of children and elderly people in the population has become significantly modified since 1901. In that year children under 15 amounted to 32% of the total and persons of 65 years and over to 5%. In 1957 the proportions were respectively 22.8% and 11.7%.

### EXPECTATION OF LIFE—ENGLAND AND WALES

On the basis of the death rates for the year 1956, the expectation of life for a boy at birth is given as 68 years and that of a girl as 73 years. This compares with 67 and 72 in 1953, 48.53 and 52.38 in 1901-1910, and with 40 years and 42 years in 1841.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases in the Cannock Rural District in 1957, compared with that of previous years, is shewn below in tabular form:

Disease	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Scarlet Fever ..	14	9	19	33	32	32	14	19	65	99	58	22
Whooping Cough	44	70	20	19	112	30	151	52	80	162	60	102
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	2	5	11
Erysipelas ..	1	6	1	1	3	1	3	1	5	8	5	6
Measles (excluding Rubella) ..	394	44	527	4	327	38	313	102	388	179	337	73
Primary Pneumonia ..	21	8	8	22	12	6	19	7	18	12	24	25
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	29	46	1	—	3	2	—	1	1	3
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	3	—

Infectious Diseases notifications, 1957, shewing months of occurrence:

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para-Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Paralytic Poliomyelitis	Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis
January ..	3	—	34	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ..	1	—	53	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ..	3	—	108	13	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
April ..	3	—	30	8	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May ..	12	—	30	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	1	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July ..	—	—	25	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ..	—	—	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
September ..	—	—	12	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ..	1	—	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November ..	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	1	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	14	—	394	44	21	—	1	—	—	1	—	—

Names of Parishes in the Cannock Rural District shewing number of Houses (including farmhouses) approximate population figures and incidence of Infectious Diseases in each Parish in 1957.

NAME OF PARISH	Number of Houses	Census 1951 Population	Estimated Population Mid-1957	INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1957										
				Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles (including Rubella)	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para-Typhoid	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis
Acton Trussell and Bednall	144	432	437	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Blymhill	151	510	520	—	—	8	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Brewood	1,185	3,576	4,080	1	—	39	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cheslyn Hay	900	3,130	3,302	2	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coppenhall	46	113	128	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunstons	88	295	303	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essington	1,004	3,069	3,261	9	—	12	16	15	—	—	—	1	—	1
Featherstone	356	1,655	1,958	1	—	23	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Wyrley	1,354	4,287	4,360	1	—	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hatherton	166	511	536	—	—	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilton	92	383	383	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Huntington	365	1,587	1,727	—	—	35	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lapley	242	780	783	—	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Penkridge	872	2,518	2,768	—	—	128	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saredon	142	428	458	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shareshill	108	301	325	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Stretton	49	182	182	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Teddesley Hay	28	136	136	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston-under-Lizard	82	273	273	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7,374	24,166	25,920	14	—	394	44	21	—	—	—	1	—	16

# AGE AND SEX INCIDENCES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1957

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles		Whooping Cough		Primary Pneumonia		Dysentery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Polymyelitis		Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year	—	—	—	—	4	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	18	19	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—	15	20	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—	1	—	—	—	26	23	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—	1	—	—	—	25	26	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5—9	5	5	—	—	89	106	12	17	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
10—14	1	1	—	—	11	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
25—44	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—
Over 65 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	6	—	—	191	203	18	26	14	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8	8



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year it was found necessary to obtain a Court Order for the removal of an elderly woman, ill and living alone in a council bungalow under insanitary conditions and unable to devote to herself, and not receiving from others, proper care and attention. The old lady settled down comfortably in a Home for Aged Persons under local authority arrangements.

### SCARLET FEVER

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1957, compared with 9 in 1956. No deaths were recorded.

It has been stated that Scarlet Fever is a diminishing hazard to the child life of this country; during the past 30 years it has lost many of its terrors and is now important principally as a cause of interference with the schooling of children. In each of the years 1871-1880 in England and Wales deaths from Scarlet Fever averaged 719 per million population; the figure in 1956 was 0.3 per million population. In 1870, 32,543 deaths from Scarlet Fever were recorded in England and Wales, in 1956 there were 15 deaths.

SCARLET FEVER—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases .. ..	73,687	56,730	58,047	74,831	70,667	65,889
Deaths .. ..	84	43	42	37	18	33
Case Fatality (%)	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.05
Year .. ..	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cases .. ..	48,744	67,261	61,180	43,026	32,619	33,103
Deaths .. ..	37	23	27	27	21	15
Case Fatality (%)	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.00

Most of Scarlet Fever cases are now very mild; the progressive fall in mortality has not been accompanied by a comparable decline in the number of cases.

### MEASLES

394 cases of Measles were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1957, compared with 44 in 1956. No deaths were recorded.

The remarkable feature about Measles is the way in which its severity has declined in recent years. As late as 1941 the percentage ratio of deaths to notifications was 0.28; in 1956 it was 0.02. This is all to the good, for Measles is one of those infections in which the patient is liable to be highly infectious before the diagnosis of his illness has been established.

Early infectiousness makes the application of preventive measures practically impossible and largely accounts for the extremely rapid spread of the infection throughout the susceptible sections of the child community. Measles, often negligible as a disease is commonly an inconvenience. It is pre-eminently a "school disease" and, when large outbreaks occur, it is capable of causing a good deal of disorganisation in the children's curricula. Fortunately, absence from school on account of Measles should not exceed 10 days.

MEASLES—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases .. ..	146,796	160,402	393,287	399,606	385,935	367,725
Deaths .. ..	729	204	644	327	307	221
Case Fatality (%)	0.16	0.13	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.06
Year .. ..	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cases .. ..	616,192	389,502	545,050	146,995	693,803	160,556
Deaths .. ..	317	141	245	50	176	30
Case Fatality (%)	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02

## WHOOPIING COUGH

44 cases of Whooping Cough were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1957, compared with 70 in 1956. No deaths were recorded.

### Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Towards the end of 1953 immunisation against Whooping Cough facilities were made available by the County Council as Local Health Authority. Immunisation involves three injections at monthly intervals between each injection, commencing when the child is 3—4 months old, but available for older children. The complications and sequelae of Whooping Cough can be very serious in childhood, and parents will wish to take full advantage of the protection which immunisation offers against such infection. Immunisations are carried out at the various Infant Welfare Centres and by family doctors.

In the Cannock Rural District during 1957, 141 children were immunised against Whooping Cough and 10 received re-inforcing doses.

WHOOPIING COUGH—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases .. ..	62,691	92,936	92,682	146,410	102,816	157,781
Deaths .. ..	689	808	905	748	527	394
Case Fatality (%)	1.10	0.87	0.98	0.51	0.51	0.25
Year .. ..	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cases .. ..	169,441	114,869	157,842	105,912	79,133	92,410
Deaths .. ..	457	184	243	139	88	95
Case Fatality (%)	0.27	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.10

## POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1957, compared with 3 cases in 1956.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During 1956 the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority made arrangements for a start to be made in the vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis. The supply of vaccine was limited and vaccination was restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. Vaccination involved two injections with an interval of at least three weeks between the first and second injections. In the Cannock Rural District in 1957, 735 children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis as compared with 88 the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Total Cases ..	853	680	7,776	1,855	5,982	7,760
Deaths .. ..	139	128	707	241	657	755
Year .. ..	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Total Cases ..	2,614	3,910	4,547	1,960	6,331	3,200
Deaths .. ..	217	295	338	134	270	137

## DIPHTHERIA

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1957. The last case was notified in 1952.

# DIPHTHERIA—ENGLAND AND WALES

Year	Annual Average 1916—1925		Annual Average 1933—1942		1949	1950
Notifications	51,573		55,125		1,890	962
Deaths	4,214		2,783		84	49
Fatality Ratio (%) ..	8.2		5.0		4.44	5.09
Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Notifications	664	376	266	173	155	53
Deaths	33	32	23	9	13	8
Fatality Ratio (%) ..	4.52	6.12	7.52	4.62	7.74	5.66

In the Cannock Rural District in 1957 facilities were available for the Diphtheria Immunisation of children at schools, Welfare Centres and by private practitioners. 358 children received primary immunisation and 355 children received re-inforcing or "Boosting" doses.

With the fall in the number of cases and of deaths from Diphtheria a feeling of complacency may be engendered in the public mind. The fullest publicity is advocated by the Ministry of Health as essential if parents are to be helped to realise that Diphtheria is still a deadly threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised. The incidence of Diphtheria continues to fall. Records of corrected notifications were first kept in 1944 and in that year, there were 23,199 notifications and 934 deaths.

The object of the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign is the ultimate elimination of the disease. This is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of outbreaks of Diphtheria. Scarcely less important than the primary immunisation is the reinforcing injection known as the "booster dose". The protection conferred by the primary immunisation wanes with the passage of time and, after about five years, it has fallen to such a degree as to be virtually ineffective. Another injection of the immunising substance boosts and restores the protection to its full value, hence the term "booster dose" given to it. Deaths from Diphtheria at the present time represent for the most part severe reactions in children without previous active immunisation and with much lessened chances than formerly of immunity acquired by previous contact with mild infection.



## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

In the Cannock Rural District in 1957, 139 children under 15 years were vaccinated. A further 20 persons over 15 were also vaccinated.

It is felt that routine infant vaccination, together with re-vaccination on entering and leaving school (at ages 5 and 15) would greatly reduce the vulnerability of the community to the spread of smallpox. Smallpox has become so rare in this country that its high mortality and legacy of dreadful disfigurement are in danger of being forgotten. Vaccination and re-vaccination is the answer to this situation.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The following table is culled from the Tuberculosis Register, maintained by the Cannock Rural District Council—figures as at 31st December, 1957.

CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL								
Respiratory Tuberculosis			Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
65	64	129	12	12	24	77	76	153

Three deaths (2 Respiratory, 1 Non-Respiratory), from Tuberculosis were recorded in the rural district in 1957. Sixteen cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified (8 male, 8 female) during the year.

In England and Wales in 1957 the fall in Tuberculosis deaths continued, the total number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis being 4,250, representing a death rate of 95 per million people. There were 534 deaths from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis, a rate of 12 per million.

There is considerable optimism that present methods of treating its victims and preventing its spread are such that, within the next few decades, Tuberculosis may be effectively brought under control. The gain would be great, since Tuberculosis still ranks as, by far, the chief of the group of infectious diseases causing death, especially in the more productive years of life.

## DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS ENGLAND AND WALES

Year	RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			ALL FORMS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Aver- 1851-60	23,931	26,962	50,893	8,311	6,683	14,994	32,242	33,645	65,887
1939	12,702	8,840	21,542	2,229	1,852	4,081	14,931	10,692	25,623
1949	10,740	6,819	17,559	1,283	1,066	2,349	12,023	7,885	19,908
1951	7,903	4,128	12,031	923	852	1,775	8,826	4,980	13,806
1952	6,421	2,914	9,335	693	557	1,250	7,114	3,471	10,585
1953	5,447	2,466	7,913	517	472	989	5,964	2,938	8,902
1954	4,944	2,125	7,069	448	380	828	5,392	2,505	7,897
1955	4,172	1,665	5,837	361	294	655	4,533	1,959	6,492
1956	3,533	1,318	4,851	271	251	522	3,804	1,569	5,373
1957	3,151	1,099	4,250	264	270	534	3,415	1,369	4,784

### HOUSING, Etc.

Captain Page, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, has kindly let me have the following comments re work in 1957.

"Housing". 76 new Council dwellings were completed, bringing the total of post-war dwellings to 925 at the end of 1957. The figure of 76 is slightly higher than the yearly average for the last 3 years with 69 under construction at the year end and a further 166 in the tender stage, it appears likely that 1958 should show a higher total of dwellings completed. Advance site preparations at John's Lane and at Littlewood were completed, providing sites for approximately 240 further dwellings.

Private houses completed have shown a yearly increase since the end of the war, the figures of 159 for 1957 being the highest for any single post-war year.

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.** Work continued throughout the year on the Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Comprehensive Scheme and by the end of the year the three pumping stations had been completed and were in operation. As a result, the flow formerly delivered to the Littlewood Works is pumped to the Cannock Urban District Council Works and the old plant at Littlewood has been abandoned. As soon as the necessary connections have been made to the new sewers, it will be possible to abandon the small disposal works at Hazel Lane and Jacobs Hall Lane.

Ministry approval was received for a sewerage scheme at Shareshill and detailed work on the scheme is in hand. Design work is also in hand on schemes at Brewood, Coven and Wheaton Aston.

**Water Supply.** A scheme for a small extension to serve properties at Coven Heath was agreed and a further scheme to supply properties at Dunston Heath has been submitted to the Ministry.

**Camp Sites.** Further progress was made on the clearance of huts as they became vacant. A number of huts still remain, but the "compound" at Teddesley Road, Penkridge, was finally cleared of huts used as dwellings, enabling progress to be made on a scheme for permanent houses on this site."

At the end of 1957 the total post-war homes built in England and Wales numbered 2,520,385 of which 268,653 were completed in 1957. Of the houses completed in England and Wales in 1957, 137,584 were built by Local Authorities, 1,913 by Housing Associations, 6,214 by Government Departments and 122,942 by Private Builders.

#### CANNOCK R.D.C.—NEW HOUSES BUILT IN 1957

Parish	By Council	By Private Enterprise
Acton, Trussell & Bednall	—	1
Brewood .. .. .	—	81
Cheslyn Hay .. .. .	38	2
Coppenhall .. .. .	—	2
Dunston .. .. .	—	1
Essington .. .. .	14	23
Featherstone .. .. .	—	1
Great Wyrley .. .. .	—	24
Hatherton .. .. .	5	1
Lapley .. .. .	—	1
Penkridge .. .. .	19	10
Saredon .. .. .	—	12
<b>TOTALS .. .. .</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>159</b>

Mr. Bates, the Council's Housing Manager, writes "The total number of houses now owned by the Council is 1,412 of which number 76 were completed during the year ended the 31st December, 1957.

At the commencement of 1957 approximately 1,000 applicants were registered on the Council's waiting-list and although as a result of a review of the waiting list during the year 200 or so applicants were deleted from the list, the figure has now again reached 965 as follows:—

Cheslyn Hay	..	..	..	..	157
Essington	..	..	..	..	127
Great Wyrley	..	..	..	..	224
Huntington	..	..	..	..	51
Brewood	..	..	..	..	96
Penkridge	..	..	..	..	89
Coven	..	..	..	..	88
Featherstone	..	..	..	..	105
Wheaton Aston	..	..	..	..	9
Hatherton	..	..	..	..	19
					965

During the year a commencement was made on the clearance of the Middle Hill Camp and seven of the older type huts were demolished. Five hutments at Holly Close, Great Wyrley, were also demolished during this period.

The year also saw the development of the Council's caravan site at Huntington, and over a period the whole of the sites were let. All sites were tenanted at the end of the year and further development is envisaged provided the necessary planning permission can be obtained."

At 31st December, 1957, the following properties were in the care of the Housing Manager:

Council Houses	..	..	..	..	1,296
(including Purchased Houses)					
Prefabs.	..	..	..	..	30
Hutments, Walsall Road, Great Wyrley					22
Hutments, Cannock Road, Westcroft	..				20
Hutments, Gravel Lane, Huntington	..				15
Hutments, Primrose Park, Penkridge					29
					1,412
Middle Hill Camp	..	..	..		18
Holly Close Hostel	..	..	..		33
					51



## REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### Summary of Inspections and work done during 1957

Number of houses inspected for repairs	...	...	...	203
Re-inspections, calls, etc.	...	...	...	390
Slaughter-house Licences renewed	...	...	...	7
Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	...	618
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...		1
Petrol Licences renewed	...	...	...	83
New Petrol Licences issued	...	...	...	2
Drainage work examined	...	...	...	108
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	...	...		9
Cases of Infectious Disease removed	...	...	...	10
Houses disinfected after infectious cases	...	...		6
Reports of Infectious cases to M.O.H. (excluding T.B.)				6
New Licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	...			3
Renewal Licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	...			30
Informal Notices issued (affecting 70 houses)	...	...		62
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	...	1
Samples taken of Drinking Water:				
Chemical	...	...	...	22
Bacteriological	...	...	...	22
Moveable Dwelling licences issued (New)	...	...		24
Moveable Dwelling Licences (Renewed)	...	...		10
Visits re Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	94
Visits re Refuse Matters	...	...	...	176
Visits re Disinfestation for vermin	...	...	...	12
Demolition Orders served	...	...	...	24
Closing Orders served	...	...	...	3
Houses Demolished	...	...	...	4

# COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS FOR HOUSE REFUSE, 1955-56 and 1956-57 Highest and Lowest Costs for Rural Authorities

RURAL AUTHORITIES	ANNUAL NET COST						Weight of Refuse per 1,000 population per day	
	Per Ton		Per 1,000 Population		Per 1,000 Premises			
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
	s. d.	s. d.	£	£	£	£	cwt	cwt.
1955-56	64 0	11 1	829	174	2,436	256	30.7	5.0
1956-57	112 8	12 8	958	221	2,935	692	63.9	2.7
CANNOCK R.D.C.	ANNUAL NET COST						Weight of Refuse per 1,000 population per day	
	Per Ton		Per 1,000 Population		Per 1,000 Premises			
	s. d.	s. d.	£	£	£	£	cwt	cwt.
	1955-56	24 11		446		1,472		19.6
1956-57	25 7		529		1,663		22.7	

## COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

I have always regarded Public Cleansing as one of the most important items administered by this department, because of this, and at the same time realising, that for many members of the Council this will be their first Annual Report, may I be permitted, as last year, to review the history of refuse collection in this Rural area. It is one which affects every citizen personally and any drop in efficiency is immediately noticed. Unfortunately any improvement tends to be taken for granted or unnoticed. Moreover it is an expensive service and the importance of combining economy with efficiency is constantly with us. I am, therefore, fortunate in being allowed to attend the Annual Conference of The Institute of Public Cleansing. This Conference deals exclusively with the subject of Public Cleansing. It is there that the best brains of the service meet and pool their knowledge and experience and make contacts which, from my own experience, benefit not only the delegates but the districts which they represent.

The big question is cost and, in my opinion, a satisfactory comparison of Public Cleansing Services cannot be made, because there are no two districts alike in every respect.

If, however, comparisons are to be made, a reasonable yardstick must first be found and I think that the cost per

1,000 population is the most reliable standard to be used. Even this does not give a true assessment of the value of the services offered unless considered in conjunction with the following :

1. Acreage.
2. Population and its distribution.
3. Number of premises.
4. Interval of Service.
5. Occupational activities of the population, viz: (Mining).
6. Yield of refuse per house.
7. Arrangement of streets and design of houses.
8. Is the interval of service as stated, or is it merely wishful thinking?
9. Method of collection. Is the householder responsible for placing the bin at the kerb and returning it to the house or are the contents of the bin tipped by the dustmen into a skip at the rear of the house, thus saving a journey? Such unsatisfactory methods could mean an appreciable reduction in manpower.
10. The number and convenience of disposal points and their maintenance.

Prior to 1943 refuse collection was done by private contractors in a limited number of parishes. This method had many disadvantages, the main one being that refuse collection was looked upon, by the contractor, as a side-line and had not to interfere with any other business carried on by him. It was not until 1940 that Penkridge, the seat of administration, had an organised collection of refuse.

In 1943 I had the honour to recommend that your first refuse collecting vehicle be purchased. This combined method of contract and direct labour existed until 1st April, 1947, on which date this Council undertook to collect refuse from the most part of the district with its own vehicles and men.

In 1947 the number of houses was 6,062 and the vehicles used were two Dennis side-loaders 10/12 cu. yd. and one Karrier Bantam 5 cu. yd. It soon became apparent that to continue using this type of vehicle would result in what, I believed, to be too large a fleet as house building continued. So today owing to the introduction of the large rear-loading vehicles manufactured by Messrs. Shelvoke and Drewry of Letchworth the number of vehicles used regularly is still three (one old Dennis is held in reserve) despite the increase of approximately 1,535 houses since 1947. This increase in houses means that this department removes approximately four tons of refuse per day more than it did with the same number

of lorries in 1947. Some districts, do in fact, receive a more frequent collection than nine years ago.

The present fleet, therefore, consists of two Fore and Aft Tipping rear-loading vehicles 16/18 cu. yds., manufactured by Messrs. Shelvoke and Drewry and two Dennis Side-loading vehicles 10/12 cu. yds. As previously stated one of these side-loading vehicles is held in reserve and used for odd jobs only.

All parts of the district now receive a weekly collection except the rural areas, comprising Chillington, Bishops Wood, Weston area, Lapley, Coppenhall, Dunston and Acton and Bednall. In all approximately 1,000 houses receive a fortnightly collection out of the 7,697 in the whole area.

The Fordson Tractor carrying Weatherill Hydraulic Equipment is in its fourth year of hard work, and is proving very useful in tip maintenance.

Progress was certainly made in 1957 when the Council found it possible to accept my recommendation that the mechanisation of tips be carried a step further and that a Bristol 25 Tipmaster tracked Bulldozer be purchased along with a 1½ cu. yd. Conder Scraper.

As a result we are now able to practice the American "Sanitary Land Fill Method" of refuse disposal at your Landywood tip.

It is the old story "How did we manage without them?"

### PAN CLOSETS

The work of emptying Pan or Pail Closets continued satisfactorily throughout the year. There are approximately 860 pan lavatories together with those from the ever growing caravan population.

One vehicle is used in this work and is now operated by one driver and one attendant, instead of two, at an approximate cost of £2,000.

The question of disposal of this excreta and of that from cesspools is a very serious and urgent matter and I do appeal for speedy action in an attempt to solve the problem. Everybody requires their pan or cesspit to be emptied but hardly anyone is willing to receive the contents when once in the Council's vehicle.

### CESSPOOLS

Prior to 1943 the Council undertook to empty cesspools in certain parishes only; Penkridge not being one of them. When it was done, it was very irregular and was done by a contractor using a motor pump mounted on iron wheels which was, with great difficulty, trundled down the garden to the cesspit. The



contents of the cesspit were then pumped up to a tank mounted on a lorry in the roadway. This mobile pump was responsible for the churning up of many pathways and lawns.

However, in 1942, the Council accepted my report on these unsatisfactory conditions and agreed to purchase a 750 gallon cesspool emptier made by the Yorkshire Steam Patent Wagon Company and mounted on a Commer Chassis. This continued working until 1953. There were many disadvantages with this type of vehicle and today the cesspools throughout the whole of the Cannock Rural District are emptied by two 800 gallon vehicles manufactured by Messrs. Shelvoke and Drewry of Letchworth. These vehicles are now eight and four years old respectively and are still giving excellent service.

Three men, including two drivers, were employed on this work covering some 800 cesspools.

## RODENT CONTROL

(1st April 1956 to 31st March, 1957)

This service was carried out throughout the year in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Infestation Control Division.

### Premises Inspected

		Total Inspected	Found Infested	Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	42	42	—
Business Premises	...	95	59	36
Agricultural	... ..	207	163	44
Local Authority	...	107	43	64
Deep Sewers	... ..	57	57	—
		<hr/> 508	<hr/> 364	<hr/> 144

### Visits to carry out Treatments of Infestations

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	210
Business Premises	...	...	295
Agricultural	...	...	815
Local Authority	...	...	215
Deep Sewer	... ..	...	285
			<hr/> 1,820

# **PARTICULARS OF NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER MAINS**

			Houses	Houses Supplied Direct
Acton and Bednall	...	...	144	103
Blymhill	...	...	151	84
Brewood	...	...	1,187	1,137
Cheslyn Hay	...	...	900	899
Coppenhall	...	...	46	44
Dunston	...	...	88	33
Essington	...	...	1,106	973
Featherstone	...	...	357	356
Hatherton	...	...	168	162
Hilton	...	...	92	86
Huntington	...	...	366	366
Lapley	...	...	242	209
Penkridge	...	...	872	793
Saredon	...	...	142	132
Shareshill	...	...	108	104
Stretton	...	...	49	45
Teddesley Hay	...	...	28	22
Weston under Lizard	...	...	82	77
Great Wyrley	...	...	1,366	1,362

## **ANTHRAX**

During the year eight suspected cases of Anthrax (none of which were confirmed) were reported, compared with five suspected cases in the previous year.

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948**

The following shows the number and type of factories in the area.

Premises	No. on the Register	No. of Inspections made during 1956
(1) Non-mechanical ..	14	4
(2) Mechanical Factories	48	29
Total .. ..	62	33

Only in one case was unsuitable sanitary conveniences found and this was remedied.

## WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies to the district during 1956 were, from The Staffordshire Water Works Company, The Wolverhampton Corporation, The Stafford Corporation and the East Shropshire Water Board. The quality of these waters remained satisfactory.

The water from none of the three sources was plumbosolvent.

SOURCE	No. of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	No. of Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	RESULTS			
			Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
			Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.
Wells (Private)	15	15	3	10	12	5
Springs (Private)	3	3	—	1	3	2
Bores (Private)	4	4	1	4	3	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>

## SPECIAL MILK LICENCES

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-44

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	Tuberculin Tested
Supplementary Licences	13	13	13
Dealers' Licences	9	11	7

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Fried Fish and Chip Shops and Manufacturers of preserved foods	17
Sale of Ice Cream	89

In addition to routine visits made to the above premises other establishments where food is handled, stored or sold have been visited. These include provision shops, butchers and cafes, etc.

The number and description of the various types of food premises in the district are set out below:—

Grocers	...	...	60	Confectioners	...	16
Bakers	...	...	3	Butchers	...	19
Cafes, Inns, etc.	...	...	64	Works Canteens	...	10

All foodstuffs condemned in shops during the year are listed below:—

- 2,115 tins of Tomatoes.
- 2 tins of Beans in Tomato Sauce.
- 4 tins of Corned Beef.
- 5 tins of Red Plums.
- 19 tins of Pineapple.
- 4 tins of Apricots.
- 1 tin of Oxtail Soup.
- 2 tins of Vegetable Soup.
- 9 tins of Bartlett Pears.
- 23 tins of Grapefruit.
- 3 tins of Peaches.
- 1 tin of Green Beans.
- 12 tins of Dog Meat Chunks.
- 1 tin of Red Cherries.
- 1 tin of Tuna Meat.
- 1 tin of Pilchards in Tomato Sauce.
- 2 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.
- 3 tins of Garden Peas.
- 720 Fish Fingers.
- 56 lbs. of Bulk Lard.

These items are disposed of by burial or burning under supervision of this department. In case of meat being found unfit for human consumption it is coloured with an approved dye and generally disposed of for industrial purposes.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected .. .. .	1,338	63	1,959	1,331
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</b>				
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	1	1	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	87	1	5	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	6.58%	3.17%	0.41%	1.05%
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>				
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	2	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	41	—	—	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	3.19%	—	—	1.05%

## A FEW THOUGHTS ON MEAT INSPECTION

### General View.

“When the housewife buys a choice piece of English Beef, does the thought ever cross her mind that the meat may not be quite wholesome? No, because she trusts her butcher. She also has a vague idea that somebody inspects meat to see that it is free from disease and fit to eat.”

“Is her confidence fully justified? Some recent reports and statements by responsible people suggest that it is not. For, while the law compels local councils to build sewers and sewage works, empty dustbins, and sweep the streets, it does **not** require them to see that all meat produced in their districts is inspected by qualified officers.”

“Most progressive councils do endeavour to provide an adequate meat inspection service, and in the large towns there is usually 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered for food—but there is no compulsion about it. Indeed, the law is somewhat lax on this point. It requires a butcher to give notice to the council when he intends to slaughter an animal, **but if no inspector has turned up within three hours of the commencement of slaughtering, he can remove the carcase from the slaughter-house without having it inspected.**”



"In 1951, a government working party estimated that, to build up an adequate force of health inspectors—who carry out the work of meat inspection—200 new inspectors ought to qualify annually for a period of five years. In the last three years, the numbers have been 84, 82 and 117 respectively."

"The ending of meat rationing in the summer of 1954 was the cause of much concern to many councils, hardly knowing where to turn for staff. The Ministry of Food had managed to distribute the scanty meat ration from about 480 slaughter-houses in England and Wales. When the government decided to abolish rationing, it encouraged butchers to re-open their private slaughter-houses, closed since 1940. By August, 1954, the number of slaughter-houses in use had shot up to over 4,000, and health inspectors found themselves stretched to the utmost in their endeavours to cope with the staggering increase in meat inspection duties."

### **Private Slaughter-houses.**

If inspection of meat is to be carried out in an efficient manner it is necessary, in my opinion, that the inspector should be present while slaughtering is being carried out. In private slaughter-houses an adequate system of meat inspection is often impossible. The organs of unsound animals may be concealed or destroyed before the inspector arrives, or the animals may have been removed for consumption without having been inspected at all.

The standard of cleanliness is sometimes questionable. In rural areas, private slaughter-houses may be necessary, and a systematic inspection of meat in such circumstances will always be a problem. If, however, slaughter-houses are necessary in rural areas, they should be reduced to a minimum, and so placed to meet the demands of the area and to aid 100% inspection. Unfortunately, the powers to limit the hours, or even the days of slaughtering, are almost non-existent.

There is a tendency to minimise the importance of meat inspection, and it is often heard said that, in the near future inspection will not be so important because all herds will soon be tuberculin tested. This is entirely wrong, because in Memo 3 issued by the Ministry of Food, 34 diseases or conditions are listed, which call for the entire rejection of the carcase or organ.

### **Slaughter-houses in Cannock Rural District.**

In 1939, prior to the war, there were 14 licensed slaughter-houses in the district. In those days it was claimed that 14 slaughter-houses were necessary to meet the demands, this

meant that at 14 points slaughtering could be taking place and the chances of proper inspection were remote.

In 1954, when the government again allowed private slaughtering, and, despite the Ministry's recommendations for moderate concentration, all applications for slaughter-house licences were granted. These totalled 13, and by 1956 this number had dwindled to 7, but the demand for slaughtering facilities in the area was still met, although 7 slaughter-houses had gone out of commission. It cannot be too strongly stressed at this point that these licences have been given up voluntarily by the occupiers and had not arisen from any action taken by this Council.

Recently, I was surprised to hear of a rumour to the effect that "slaughtering was regularly carried out in the yard of one of your slaughter-houses." This is not true.

All your existing slaughter-houses are soundly constructed and meet with a reasonable standard of efficiency. There is ample water supply, both hot and cold, at each slaughter-house; all walls and floors are faced with an imperious surface. In some cases we are constantly trying to improve the standard of efficiency and personal hygiene.

Most of the butchers, with the exception of those having a slaughter-house, buy their meat wholesale from outside the area, whilst your slaughter-houses send meat into Walsall, Hednesford, Wolverhampton, Bilston, Sedgley, and Manchester.

The seven existing slaughter-houses, in the main, are not working to anything like their full capacity. This indicates that we have more facilities than are in reality required for our own area.

Out of the many conflicting interests in the world of meat production there, in my mind, emerges the one important question, is meat inspection within the district adequate, so as to safeguard the health of the individual consumer and the community as a whole?

**Number of visits made to each individual Slaughter-house  
during 1957.**

Mr. T. J. Churchill, Forge Farm, Wheaton Aston	...	...	90
Mr. W. Gibbs, Market Place, Brewood	...	...	40
Mr. C. C. Mason, Blymhill Lawn, Blymhill	...	...	42
Mr. K. Owen, The Larches, Coven	...	...	114
Mr. J. Richards, Wolverhampton Road, Essington	...	...	33
Mr. D. Whiteway, The Laurels, Wheaton Aston	...	...	32
Mr. H. P. Westwood, 203, Station Street, Cheslyn Hay	...	...	241

A. THOMSON, Medical Officer of Health

G. RICHARDSON, Chief Public Health Inspector.







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V. L. Withington, Printer, Cannock

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